cularly describing their plans for promoting the growth of small and medium towns to arrest migration to large cities.

In 8th Five Year Plan, a two pronged strategy to arrest migration from rural areas to cities, and to control the crowth of cities, is envisaged as follows:-

(i) Implementation of programmer for generation of more employment opportunities and creation of better facilities for living in rural areas like the Integrated Rural Development Programme; Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, Development of Women and Children in the rural areas, Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme, Minimum Needs Programme, etc. (These schemes are implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development).

(ii) Greater emphasis on the development of small and medium towns with a view to increasing employment opportunities and providing urban infrastructure for absorbing surplus rural labour and to provide necessary linkages between the rural hitherland and urban areas.

(b) and (c) Since Urban Development is a state subject, it is upto State Governments to form a specialised cadre of officers for corporation and municipalities an undertake administrative reforms to give better administration to urban areas. However, through periodic consultations with State Governmrnt officials; Ministry of urban Development has been emphasizing the need for human resourcrs planning and upgradation in managing urban development projects. To a certain extent, the Ministry has been helping State Governments in training the urban managers/administrators with management tools and providing opportunities to them to learn from forign visits under bilateral|multilateral aid learn programmes.

The changes initiated through th 74th Constitutional Amendmen would, it is expected; lead to streng thening of municipal bodies throug greater functional drcentralisatio and financial autonomy.

**Additional financial assistance to on going irrigation projects**

2253. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will th Minister of WATER RESOURCE be pleased to state: t

(a) whether the Central Gover ment have agreed to provide add tional financial assistance to th State Governments for complrtio of on-going irrigation projects; an

(b) if so, the details thereof; State wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE II THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVE LOPMENT AND THE MINISTE OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY O WATER RESOURCES (SHRI R. K THUNGON): (a) and (b) No, Sir However, as a special case it ha been agreed to provide additiona centra assistance to the extent of Rs. 550 crore for the completion of Sardar Saro var Project to compensate the loss o US $ 165.541 million due to disengage ment of the project from the World Ban Group assistance.

**Talks brtween India and Banglades on Gangda water sharing**

2254. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will th Minister of WATER RESOURCE be pleased to state: t

(a) whether talks were held re cently betwern India and Bangla desh on Ganga Water sharing; an

(b) if so, the outcome there of?

THE MINISTER OF STATE II THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVE LOPMENT AND THE MINISTE OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY O WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P. K